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## SASKATCHEWAN DELEGATES VOTE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE (2020) NATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL!

A notice of motion was presented, at the October 25 & 26, 2019 Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) Conference & AGM, **to withdraw from the (2020) National Music Festival in (the) 2020 (festival year)** and was carried. Thirty-one delegates from 20 of the 47 affiliated District Music Festivals, two Honorary Life Members, and eleven board/staff gathered at the Travelodge (Cambridge Room) in Regina, to network, learn and share experiences. Presentations, Annual General Meeting, and roundtable discussions took place with the theme "Music for One, Music For All".

Two new directors, **Claire Seibold (Rosetown Music Festival)** and **Jeff Froehlich (Quill Plains Music Festival)**, join the SMFA board members: Sherry Sproule (President), Karen Unger (Past President), Tammy Villeneuve (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), Jeri Ryba (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President), Dianne Gryba (Director), Valentina May (Director), Krista Brost (Director), Bonnie Nicholson (ad hoc Director), and Carol Donhauser (Executive Director). Retiring Director, Kari Mitchell (Carnduff) was thanked for her service on the Provincial Board.

Guest speakers and presenters included: Rhonda Rosenberg and Yordanos Tesfamariam of the MultiCultural Council of Saskatchewan; Carol Donhauser and Nancy Toppings (SMFA Governance/Review Process); Pat Rediger of Benchmark Public Relations (Integrating Social Media and Media Relations); and Cherith Alexander (Care and Feeding of Your Adjudicator).

The Volunteer Award Luncheon is a Conference highlight, and this year Dr. Melissa Morgan, choral conductor, educator, and performer was the keynote. Sherry Sproule, SMFA President, presented volunteer awards to: **Christine Massier (Estevan), Jacqueline (Belcourt) Poirier (Lafleche), Glenda Giles and Jean Istace (Kindersley); Florence Poirier (Kipling), Judith Nordness and Janice Paterson (Saskatoon), Bernadette Schneider (Shaunavon) and Michelle Walker (Yorkton)**. The following adjudicators were presented with Adjudicating Excellence Awards: **Cherith Alexander, Gene Aulinger, Dominic Gregorio (posthumously), Lisa Horung, Peggy L'Hoir, Joy McFarlane-Burton, Greg and Marcia McLean. Larry Johnson** of Music Festival Organizer Software Program received a Distinguished Service Award. SMFA Past President **Nancy Toppings** was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in recognition of her work at the District, Provincial and National Levels of Music Festival. Delegates were entertained by Regina musicians, Solveig, Asta and Ulla Hovdestad, and by Wascana Voices, a self-directed choral ensemble based in Regina.

SMFA, now in its 111<sup>th</sup> year of operation, is funded by grants from Sask Lotteries Trust for Sport, Culture & Recreation, administered by SaskCulture Inc.

For further information, please contact Carol Donhauser, SMFA Executive Director  
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*Claire Seibold and Jeff Froehlich join SMFA Board.*



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